

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A stent apparatus comprising:

a substantially tubular member with an inside surface and an outside surface; and,

securing element for securing the tubular member to the exterior of a body lumen.
2. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member has an inner diameter greater than the exterior diameter of the lumen.
3. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member comprises biologically inert material.
4. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 3 wherein:

the inert material is a shape-memory material.
5. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 3 wherein:

the inert material is PTFE.
6. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 3 wherein:

the inert material is Dacron.
7. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 3 wherein:

the tubular member further comprises a biologically active material.
8. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 7 wherein:

the active material is a drug-releasing coating on a surface of the stent that permits timed or prolonged pharmacological activity.
9. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member comprises resorbable material.
10. A stent as in claim 9 wherein:

the tubular member further comprises a biologically active material.

11. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 10 wherein:

the tubular member is shape-memory material.

12. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member is porous for providing nutrients or irrigation to the lumen.

13. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member comprises a braided material.

14. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member is a single unified member.

15. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member comprises at least two members flexibly joined together.

16. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 15 wherein:

the members are joined by a hinge.

17. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member is bifurcated.

18. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member comprises a radioactive element for delivering radiation directly to the lumen.

19. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 18 wherein:

the tubular member further comprises a biologically active material.

20. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the securing element is a barb.

21. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the securing element is a hook.

22. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the securing element is an adhesive.

23. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 22 wherein:

the adhesive is biologically inert.

24. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 22 wherein:

the adhesive requires curing.

25. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the securing element is a suture.

26. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the securing element are locks that close the stent tightly onto the lumen to prevent it from slipping but not to restrict the lumen.

27. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 wherein:

the tubular member covers less than the entire circumference of the lumen.

28. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 1 further comprising:

a reinforcing layer for strengthening the tubular member.

29. (Withdrawn) A stent as in claim 28 wherein:

the reinforcing layer comprises a braided material.

30. (Not Entered) A method of supporting a body lumen comprising the steps of :

a) providing a stent having an interior layer and an exterior layer, said interior layer having a securing means thereon;

b) placing said stent around the exterior of a body lumen; and,

c) expanding said lumen into contact with said securing means, thereby securing the lumen to the securing means.

31. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent covers less than the total circumference of the lumen.
32. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent comprises a biologically inert material.
33. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claim 32 wherein:
the stent further comprises a shape-memory material.
34. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent comprises a biologically active material.
35. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent comprises resorbable material.
36. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent comprises a radioactive element for delivering radiation directly to the
lumen.
37. (Not Entered) A method as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is porous.
38. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is a single unified member.
39. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent comprises at least two members flexibly joined together.
40. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is bifurcated.
41. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is further secured by a barb.

42. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is secured by a hook.

43. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is secured by an adhesive.

44. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent comprises a braided material.

45. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the support is substantially composed of resorbable material.

46. (cancelled)

47. (cancelled)

48. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein:
the stent is further secured by sutures.

49. (Not Entered) A method of support as in claims 30 or 51 wherein further comprising the
step of:

~~the stent locking the stent~~ onto the lumen to prevent it from slipping.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of support as in claims 30 or 55 further comprising:
applying a reinforcing layer for strengthening the stent .

51. (Withdrawn) A method for implanting a prosthesis to the exterior of a body lumen
comprising:

providing for a stent as described in claim 1;

inserting the stent around a desired location on the exterior of the lumen;

providing for controllable contraction of the prosthesis at the desired location by

exerting a force upon the prosthesis to deform it such that it contacts the lumen

sufficiently to secure it to the lumen.

52. (Withdrawn) A method for implanting a prosthesis to the exterior of a body lumen comprising:

providing for a stent as described in claim 1;

inserting the, stent around a desired location on the exterior of the lumen;

providing for controlled expansion of the lumen such that it contacts the stent sufficiently to secure it to the lumen.

53. (Not entered) The method of Claim 51 wherein said step of contacting the interior layer of said stent to said lumen comprises ratcheting said stent.

54. (Not entered) The method of Claim 30 wherein said step of expanding said lumen into contact with said securing means further comprises dilating said lumen with a balloon device.

55. (New) A method of supporting a body lumen comprising the steps of :

a) providing a stent having an interior layer and an exterior layer, said interior layer having a securing means thereon;

b) placing said stent around the exterior of a body lumen;

c) contacting the interior layer of said stent to said lumen, thereby securing the lumen to the securing means.

56. (New) The method of Claim 55 wherein said step of contacting the interior layer of said stent to said lumen comprises ratcheting said stent.

57. (New) The method of Claim 55 wherein said step of contacting the interior layer of said stent to said lumen further comprises compressing said stent into said lumen.

58. (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein said step of expanding said lumen into contact with said securing means further comprises dilating said lumen with a balloon device.